

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 286552  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:AAHOUGHTON:BH  
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON,JR.  
EUR/EE:NANDREWS  
EUR:JSHINN  
S/S-O:LFLEISCHER

-----014975 010417Z /62

P R 010214Z DEC 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 286552

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XF, YO, US

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON ATHERTON NOVEMBER  
26: MIDDLE EAST

1. YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRE-  
TARY ATHERTON NOVEMBER 26 TO DISCUSS CURRENT MIDDLE EAST  
SITUATION. BELOVSKI REQUESTED U.S. ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT  
DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING SADAT'S PROPOSAL FOR PRE-GENEVA  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 286552

CAIRO CONFERENCE. ATHERTON NOTED THAT INITIATIVE FOR  
CAIRO PREPARATORY CONFERENCE WAS ENTIRELY SADAT'S --  
U.S. HAD BEEN INFORMED ONLY A SHORT TIME BEFORE PROPOSAL  
HAD BEEN MADE. U.S. WAS NOW CONSULTING WITH OTHER PARTIES  
BEFORE TAKING FINAL POSITION BUT HAD SAID PUBLICLY SUCH A  
CONFERENCE COULD BE HELPFUL.

2. REGARDING SADAT'S VISIT TO JERUSALEM, ATHERTON NOTED THAT EVENT WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN TRANSFORMING PSYCHOLOGY OF MIDDLE EAST QUESTION: ISRAELIS, WHO HAD ALWAYS HELD DOUBTS ABOUT ARAB WORDS, HAD NOW WITNESSED DRAMATIC ARAB DEED. THE REACTION IN ISRAEL HAD BEEN VERY POSITIVE, AND DAYAN WAS SAYING THAT ISRAEL HAD TO REEXAMINE ITS POSITION. ISRAELIS NOW BELIEVE THAT THE PRINCIPAL ARAB STATE--EGYPT--WAS NOW PREPARED TO MAKE PEACE. ATHERTON CONTINUED THAT SOMETHING MUST NOW BE DONE TO MAINTAIN THE

MOMENTUM AND HELP THE OTHER ARABS TO COME ALONG. AT THE MOMENT, THE ISRAELIS UNDERSTAND THE NEED TO MOVE AND ARE TRYING TO SORT OUT THEIR OWN VIEWS ON HOW TO DO THIS. AS FOR U.S. POSITION, WE CLEARLY APPROVE OF AND SUPPORT SADAT'S VISIT AND SEE IT AS A WAY OF REGAINING MOMENTUM IN THE PEACE PROCESS; WE HAVE BEEN TELLING THIS TO THE OTHER PARTIES AND ENCOURAGING THEM TO ALSO SUPPORT SADAT.

3. BELOVSKI ASKED WHAT U.S. NOW BELIEVES ISRAEL HAS TO DO, BOTH FOR PEACE AND TO SAVE SADAT. ATHERTON SAID THAT TIME WAS NEEDED FOR ISRAEL TO GET ITS OWN THINKING ADJUSTED--AFTER ALL, ONLY A WEEK HAD PASSED SINCE SADAT'S VISIT. U.S. AGREES THAT SOMETHING IS NEEDED ON ISRAEL'S PART. BUT ISRAEL WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW WHAT CAN BE DONE IN A DIALOGUE WITH EGYPT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 286552

4. BELOVSKI ASKED ABOUT THE U.S. VIEW OF ITS OWN ROLE. ATHERTON REPLIED THAT WE INTEND TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO BOTH SIDES THAT U.S. WILL STAY INVOLVED AND WILL HELP IN ANY WAY IT CAN.

5. REGARDING POSITIONS OF THE OTHER ARABS, ATHERTON NOTED THAT SAUDIS SEEM TO BE KEEPING THEIR MIND OPEN. THE SYRIANS WERE A BIGGER QUESTION MARK. ATHERTON REITERATED IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY BELOVSKI THAT WE DO NOT YET KNOW HOW TO REACT PRECISELY TO SADAT'S CAIRO CONFERENCE PROPOSAL, ALTHOUGH WE SUPPORT IT IN GENERAL. REGARDING THE SOVIETS, WE HAVE TOLD THEM THAT SADAT NEEDS SUPPORT. THEY HAVE, FOR THEIR PART, CHANGED TO A MORE MODERATE PUBLIC LINE, ALTHOUGH IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW SOVIET POSITION WILL EVOLVE PRECISELY. U.S. ASSUMES SOVIETS WANT TO SEE A GENEVA CONFERENCE AND HOPES THEY WILL ACT TO CALM DOWN THE SYRIANS AS WELL AS THE PLO, ALTHOUGH THE PLO HAS BEEN LESS EXTREME IN ITS POSITION TOWARDS THE SADAT VISIT THAN THE SYRIANS. BELOVSKI RESPONDED THAT THE SYRIANS ARE AFRAID OF BEING SOLD OUT. ATHERTON REPLIED THAT ASSAD WAS A SHREWD AND INTELLIGENT LEADER WHO WAS DEALING WITH A DIFFICULT DOMESTIC AND ARAB SITUATION, BUT

WHO HASN'T CLOSED OFF HIS OPTIONS.

6. IN CONCLUSION, ATHERTON EMPHASIZED THAT DESPITE PRESS REPORTS, U.S. WAS NOT IN THE LEAST UNHAPPY WITH RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. U.S. HAS FOR YEARS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO GET PARTIES TO TALK TOGETHER DIRECTLY AND IN FACT HAD BEEN FORCED INTO MIDDLEMAN SITUATION BECAUSE PARTIES HAD NOT DONE SO UNTIL NOW. THERE HAS TO BE A DIALOGUE AND LIAISON

BETWEEN THE SIDES. U.S. RECOGNIZES THAT A DIVIDED ARAB WORLD CAN NOT MAKE PEACE, AND HOPES THAT ARAB WORLD CAN BE HELD TOGETHER. IT WAS IMPORTANT TO GET ACROSS TO THE ARABS THAT THEY SHOULD JOIN A PROCESS THAT HAD BEGUN WITH SADAT'S MOVE, AND SUPPORT THE FORWARD MOMENTUM THAT HAD

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 286552

DEVELOPED AS A RESULT. YUGOSLAVIA COULD HELP BY EMPHASIZING THIS POINT TO THE ARABS. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, AMBASSADORS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 01-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE286552  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** AAHOUGHTON:BH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770444-1009  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t197712104/aaaadknm.tel  
**Line Count:** 138  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 78efcefb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 111679  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON ATHERTON NOVEMBER 26: MIDDLE EAST  
**TAGS:** PDIP, XF, YO, US, (ATHERTON, ALFRED E)  
**To:** BELGRADE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/78efcefb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009